

New library's doors swing open

BY RON WOLF
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The first day of summer was celebrated in Fort Frances with the official grand opening of the Fort Frances Public Library Technology Centre.

"As a municipality we can be very proud of this," said Mayor Roy Avis in his address to the crowd of about 100.

Avis noted that the municipality did not have to come up with any money for the centre.

Library board chairwoman Joyce Cunningham said she has been talking up the success of the campaign to bring the centre to reality.

"When I talk throughout the province about our journey, people are amazed at the level of support that we have received from individuals, organizations, businesses and all levels of government."

The centre, at 601 Reid Ave., features 13,770 square feet of space and can hold 60,000 books, movies and magazines. It offers 39 computers for public use, public seating for 90, a meeting room, two study rooms and public washrooms. The public is served by three full-time staff, four



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Fort Frances Public Library Technology Centre patrons participate in Monday's grand opening.

part-time staff and four students.

"I'm totally overwhelmed, I'm totally happy and I'm just so grateful to all of you here today for first of all coming and also for your support through this project," said chief li-

brarian Margaret Sedgwick.

Tours of the new facility, a barbecue and a Borderland Community Orchestra concert followed the speeches.

But this day was not the end of

the grand opening events.

On Tuesday, University of Toronto senior fellow Wendy Newman discussed the roles libraries play in today's community. University of Toronto associate professor Kelly

Lyons and Judy Sander from the Northwestern Ontario Innovation Centre shared ways that technology can support various business.

Today from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., students will be treated to snacks provided by the Friends of the Library and time capsule items will be showcased. At 4:30 p.m., Fort Dance Studio perform at the library.

Thursday is Kid's Day. Alice in Wonderland and her friends are to visit the children's area from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Crafts, games and a tea party will follow. Wearing your best hat creation is encouraged. Musicians Ross Kircher and Ken Kellar are to perform at 7 p.m.

There will be more music on Friday with Shannon Darby and Scott Baker perform from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. From 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., the Mad Hatter's Tea Party will be underway.

The Friends of the Library will provide treats and tea. At 3 p.m. a magician will be performing in the children's area. The Teen Corner is expected to be busy 6-9 p.m. with pizza and Wii games provided.

Finally from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., The Teen Corner will be busy with pizza and Wii games will be provided for the teens.